
From: McCurdy, Alaina
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 11:10 AM
To: Melih Ozbilgin
Cc: Jefferis, Brian; Mak, Kavita
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Hi Melih,
Here are a few times that we're available the next few weeks.

7/8 12-1pm, 2-3:30pm ET
7/11 2:30-3:30pm ET
7/12 3-4pm ET
7/13 2-3:30pm ET
7/14 1-3pm ET

Thanks,
Alaina

Thanks,
Alaina

Alaina McCurdy
WIFIA Program
McCurdy.alaina@epa.gov
(O) 202-564-6996
(C) 202-809-5795 *preferred*

From: Melih Ozbilgin <MOzbilgin@valleywater.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 4:01 PM
To: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Thank you for getting back to me Alaina. I hope you were out for vacation or something fun like that.

I just wanted to connect with you after the meeting we had with Corps and plan for August meeting with them.

We gave them an update like I shared with you on the presentation. They had two concerns:

1. Relationship between Pacheco project as a stand-alone project (which we issued the draft EIR for) and Pacheco as an alternative under the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project being prepared jointly by Reclamation and us.
2. Sufficiency of the information we presented in draft EIR for 404 permitting.

So, these are the two topics we want to explore with you and your team, for now.

We have been thinking about the item 1 above for a while and with EPA's involvement we think we can formulate an approach that will eliminate that concern. Of course, we would need your opinion and buy-in before we go out with any decision.

In regards to item 2, we want to brainstorm some ideas with you all and get feedback on how to approach Corps.

Do you have particular days you prefer these sorts of meetings or any day is a fair game? Vacations and all that.. 😊 If we can't organize something for that week, would the following week work for you as well?

Melih

From: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 10:51 AM
To: Melih Ozbilgin <MOzbilgin@valleywater.org>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Hi Melih,
I think I missed a call from you last week, I've been out of the office. I'm sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Can you give a few times that you and your team are available for a call the week of July 11th? If there are any questions you'd like to send via email in advance of meeting please do.

Thanks,
Alaina

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From: Melih Ozbilgin <MOzbilgin@valleywater.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 3:49 PM
To: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Great, thank you.

Did you get the Doodle Pool from Todd for potential August meeting? We are just trying to nail down a date with Corps to meet together.

In the meantime, can you send me some dates/time you might be available during June and July for us to have discussion between EPA and Valley Water?

Thanks again,
Melih

From: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Melih Ozbilgin <MOzbilgin@valleywater.org>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Melih,

Thanks for sharing the presentation. I looked through quickly and don't have any recommendations/revisions.

Thanks,
Alaina

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From: Melih Ozbilgin <MOzbilgin@valleywater.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 3:34 PM
To: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project
Importance: High

Alaina,

Here is the slide deck we are planning to use for presentation to Corps on 31st. Please let me know if you see anything that you think we should revise or take out.

Melih

From: Melih Ozbilgin
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:29 AM
To: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Alaina,

Following up on my email below. I want to make sure you are comfortable with the meeting we are having with the Corps; I definitely don't want our relationship to start on a wrong foot. We are so excited about working with you all that we wouldn't want to do anything to jeopardize it.

So, if I send you our draft presentation for the Corps by Friday, would you have few minutes to skim through and let me know if we have anything you wouldn't want us to include?

Thanks,

Melih

From: Melih Ozbilgin
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:28 PM
To: McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Cc: Jefferis, Brian <jefferis.brian@epa.gov>; Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Alaina,

We definitely will not discuss anything related to the NEPA process, and we wouldn't even think about making any commitment on EPA's behalf.

Thank you for understanding.
Melih

On May 20, 2022, at 12:46 PM, McCurdy, Alaina
<McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Melih,

Thanks for giving us some background on the meeting and selected time. While I appreciate being included in the meeting, I'd prefer to coordinate directly with Corps when it comes to our EPA action unless we've spoken in advance to coordinate a meeting.

Unfortunately, I can't make the proposed time work. If the focus is following up with them on their questions and comments on the EIR and your permit application, it makes sense to still have the meeting with them but please hold off on discussing much about the NEPA process or making any commitments on our behalf. It'd be better for us to have that conversation first so we're in agreement on the path forward.

This is going to be a big undertaking and I'd like to make sure we've started our process in a prudent and thoughtful manner. Thank you!

-Alaina

Alaina McCurdy
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From: Melih Ozbilgin <MOzbilgin@valleywater.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Mak, Kavita <mak.kavita@epa.gov>; McCurdy, Alaina <McCurdy.Alaina@epa.gov>
Subject: Meeting with USACE and EPA to Present and Discuss the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project
Importance: High

Kavita and Alaina,

Todd just sent out a meeting invite for a meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers on May 31 between 2 and 3 PM PST.

Please don't think we are being disrespectful to you by setting up a meeting past your east coast work hours. We have been trying to set up a meeting with ACE to brief them what the project is about and this is the only time slot both the ACE PM and the manager was available until the end of July. We thought if you both are not available, we will keep the meeting to just presenting what the project is about. We will then schedule a meeting with you and them for late July or early August to discuss next steps working together.

With such unavailability of staff and time from other federal agencies, I hope you understand why we wanted to have the EPA as our lead federal agency.

Best regards,
Melih